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## A 4-H/CRD Video Discussion Guide

### DON'T TOUCH

How many children have been sexually molested? Perhaps one in four — although no one knows for sure. Many of them are afraid to tell anyone, and suffer in silence for years. Victims come from all backgrounds; what they have in common is shame, fear, and pain.

This sensitive program is a moving dramatic portrayal of this important issue. While Molly's story has a happy ending — thanks to her caring babysitter and loving parents — too many children suffer in silence. **DON'T TOUCH** can help break down the wall of silence and bring help to the victims of sexual abuse.

#### INTENDED AUDIENCE

All grades.

#### OBJECTIVES

- See how a child can become a victim of sexual molestation.
- Understand that child molesters don't all look like "monsters," but are often trusted relatives or friends.
- Learn what to do if you suspect that a child is being sexually molested.

#### SYNOPSIS

Six-year-old Molly Stewart has a serious problem. Her parents' employee and friend, Mike, keeps asking her for hugs and kisses, even when she doesn't want to give them. Her parents think it's wonderful that Mike is so fond of his "special girl." Only Molly's babysitter — Karen — notices that Molly doesn't like being quite so special.

Karen's uneasiness about Molly's situation is revealed during a nightmare: she is a small girl again, huddling in her bed, while her Uncle Walter leans over her and says, "You're still my special girl, aren't you?"

Karen confesses to her boyfriend, David, that she's worried about Molly. Mike treats Molly like a girlfriend, not a kid, she insists. The situation comes to a head when the Stewarts plan an out-of-town business trip. Mike encourages them to go, and offers to stay with Molly.

When Karen finds out, she realizes that she has to act fast. She finally confides to David that her Uncle Walter molested her when she was four years old. She wants to warn the Stewarts, but is unsure because Molly has not confided in her. She doesn't want to accuse Mike unjustly.

David recalls an article where victims of sexual abuse were encouraged to act out their stories with puppets. Karen does the same with Molly and her dolls, and Molly finally tells her what has happened. Molly was afraid to tell because Mike said that her mother would send her away.

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Karen helps Molly tell her mother. Mrs. Stewart is hurt, shocked, and angry at Mike. She assures Molly that it was not her fault, that Mike tricked her and that he will not hurt her again. When Karen leaves, Mrs. Stewart calls the authorities.

When Karen sees David again, she tells him everything worked out and that Molly is in therapy. Karen also decides that she must tell her mother about what her uncle did to her years ago. Her mother has a right to know.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why would Molly allow Mike to molest her? Discuss the following reasons, and add any others you can think of:
  - Her parents have told her to obey Mike.
  - Mike said her mother would send her away if she told anyone.
  - She is ashamed and thinks it is her fault.
  - She doesn't understand what's going on and is afraid.
2. What were the warning signs that something was wrong? Why was Karen able to see them when Molly's parents couldn't? Discuss these factors:
  - Karen had been molested herself.
  - Molly's parents trusted Mike.
  - Molly didn't open up to anyone.
3. Karen's boyfriend, David, helped her see how she could help Molly. Why was Karen unsure about what to do? Discuss the factors that went into her decision:
  - Thinking about Molly's problem brought up unpleasant memories.
  - Karen didn't want to accuse Mike unjustly.
  - Karen didn't have any real evidence that Mike was molesting Molly.
  - Karen thought that Mike was a "nice guy."
4. Why does Karen feel she has to tell her mother that her uncle molested her, even though it happened years ago? Do you agree with her decision?

Coronet Film and Video

Length: 31 minutes

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